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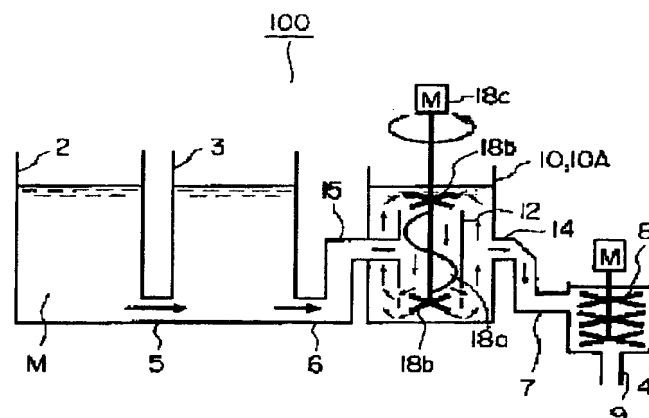
APPLICATION DATE : 03-06-97
APPLICATION NUMBER : 09145320

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INVENTOR : ENDO HIROYASU;

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TITLE : PRODUCTION OF HIGHLY
HOMOGENOUS GLASS



ABSTRACT : **PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide a process for producing highly homogenous glass which is usable for production of the highly homogenous glass of 10^{-7} order in the permissible error of the fluctuation width of a refractive index and is capable of sufficiently decreasing the fluctuations in the refractive index of the fused glass to be poured into molds with the lapse of time.

SOLUTION: This process for producing the highly homogenous glass comprises a circulating and mixing stage for homogenizing the fused glass, in which a circulating and mixing apparatus 10 having a circulating and mixing vessel 10 for homogenizing the fused glass, a circulating and mixing cylinder 12 housed in the circulating and mixing vessel 10, a propulsion means 18 for applying driving force to the fused glass in the circulating and mixing cylinder, a cylindrical direct coupling pipe 15 directly coupled to the circulating and mixing cylinder and a vessel connecting pipe 14 connected to the circulating and mixing vessel is used. The fused glass of the previous stage is admitted through the cylindrical direct coupling pipe into the circulating and mixing cylinder 12 in the circulating and mixing stage to thrust the fused glass in the circulating and mixing cylinder by which the fused glass is refluxed in the reflux route along the inner side and outer side of the circulating and mixing cylinder. The fused glass on the outside of the circulating and mixing cylinder 12 is made to flow out to the ensuing stage through the vessel connecting pipe.

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